The Nunns Propheſie:

OR,

The True, Wonderful, and Remarkable

PROPHESIE

OF

St. Heldegard,

Firſt *NUNN*, and then *ABESS*:

CONCERNING

The Riſe and Downfall of thoſe Fire-Brands of EUROPE, *the whole Order of*

JESUITS.

With a *Comment* thereon,

By that Right Reverend *Biſhop*

Dr. Jerome Baptiſta,

Dela Nova:

Lord Biſhop of *Albarazin*;

A Perſon Admirable for *Piety* and *Holineſs*, and Indowed alſo with the Gift of

PROPHESIE.

Extract from the Original from the Prelats *own Hand.*

Printed in the YEAR, 1680.

The *Nums* Propheſie, &c.

THo' the Religious Writer of this Remarkable Propheſie, had the unhappineſs to be Born in the very heat of Superſtition, and to be bred up among all the Errors and Traditions of the Church of Rome, yet no ſooner was ſhe arriv'd at Years of Diſcretion, but her diſcerning Eyes eaſily look'd through all thoſe gaudy-Innovations, and by a Proſpective of Divine Inſpiration, ſhe both beheld, admir'd, and practic'd Chriſtianity in its Innocent, Naked, and Primitive Shape, as Chriſt himſelf had left it before it had been corrupted in Italy. It was this that caus'd her (tho' ſhe had been one her ſelf) bitterly to inveigh againſt the Debauchery of Nunneries, the Laſciviouſneſs of Prieſts, the Hypocroſie of Monks, and indeed againſt the Clandeſtine Impieties of the Pope himſelf; ſo that we may more properly term her a Roman-Proteſtant than a Roman-Catholique, for ſhe choſe rather to imbrace the Goſpel in its native and beautiful ſimplicity, than accept it as ſhe ſaw it muffled up, and disfigured by the glittering Superſtition of the Church of Rome.

As to her Converſation, ſhe was univerſally accounted the moſt Holy Woman of her time; diligently performing the Eſſential, and not reſting at the Formal or Superſtitious part of her Religion; by which means ſhe came to the power of it, and was therefore moſt deſervedly reſpected by all the Learned and Religious Men of her Age, who generally look'd on her as one to whom God for the purity of her Life, had intruſted with the Spirit of Propheſie. And this veneration they had

far

for her during her Life (as is usual) was rather increased by her death, for then they carefully Collected all her Manuscripts, and finding this Prophesie *among them, Written by her own hand, they all lookt on it as a real thing, and expected the fulfilling of it, with as much Confidence, but more Reason, than the yet-blinded* Jews *do the Second-Incarnation of another Saviour; of which, tho' I might hundreds, I shall onely give you one Instance.*

In the time of the Famous Engelbert, *Bishop & Martyr of* Cologne, *a great Number of* Franciscans *and* Dominicans *came thither, with intention to settle there; whereat the Antient* Ecclesiasticks *of that place were much affrighted, and petitioned to the Bishop to expell them; saying,* They much feared that these were the Wicked Men of whom St. *Heldegard* had Prophesied. *To which that Pious and Learned Bishop answered,* That there was no just Complaint to be made against those Orders, who till then had given no offence; but the time would come when that Prophesie should be perfectly fulfilled. *Which by* Baronius *in the Margent of the Prophesie, is observed to referr to these later Days.* Vid Vita. *St.* Engelbert.

As for the Prophesie it self, I shall deliver it by piece-meal as I find it expositorily Commented on by the Right Reverend Don Jerome Baptista, *Lord-Bishop of* Albarazin, *and after of* Balbastro; A Person, *says one of their Church,* admirable for Holiness and Piety, and particularly endowed with the Gifts of *Prophesie, of Wisdom,* and *Understanding. By whose Observations, it evidently appears, that this* Prophesie *is onely to be attributed to the pretended Society of* Jesus; *or as we call them,* Jesuits: *And it is the more Remarkable, because this* Prophesie *was made long before any such Society was founded, or heard of.*

[Propheſie.] *There will ariſe Men without a Chief, who ſhall feed and grow Fat on the Sins of the People.*

St. *Ferom's Expoſition.* No Order in the whole Church but follow the Name of their firſt Founder, except theſe of the Society of *Feſuits*; witneſs, the *Franciſcans*, *Dominicans*, &c. but tho the founder of the *Feſuit's* Name was *Yunigo de Loyola*; you cannot anger them worſe than call them *Unnigiſts*, or *Loyoliſts*; No, nor though afterwards they Nick-named him *Ignacius*, will they endure to be called *Ignacaſtes*, but only owning that of the Society, acknowledging no Chief but the whole Order. Again it appears, this was ſpoken of Eccleſiaſtical people, for of them the Propher ſaid, *They did eat the Sins of the people*: Which is the ſame in effect with the Womans Expoſition; beſides, it is too apparent the *Feſuits* do ſo, by thoſe many Pardons and Indulgences they Mercinarily procure for great Offenders.

[Pro.] *Shameleſs in their Behaviour.*

[*D. Fer.*] There's not a ſort of Men under Heaven, care ſo little what becomes of the moſt Important Concerns, provided they may obtain their deſires: What Impudence did they uſe to the Cardinal of *Toledo* and Doctor *Ferome Manrick*, who had been their great Friends? But 'tis no wonder this Propheteſs called them *Sine rubore*, ſince it is one of their known Maxims, that *To promote Self-Intereſt is the only Wiſdom.*

[Pro.] *Studious to invent new ways to do Miſchief.*

[*Dr. Fer.*] Who invented and practiced Confeſſion by Letters, who obliged Penitents to diſcover their Complices againſt their wills, or taught that a Fryer upon

on a Revelation, he ſhall imagine certain or probable, ſhall refuſe to obey any Laws whatſoever.

[Pro.] *A pernicious Order to all Wiſe men, and thoſe that are faithful in Jeſus Chriſt.*

[D. *Fer.*] 'Tis to be admir'd! there's not a perſon but complains of them; the world obſerves they love to be tampering in all Affairs; give frequent viſits to Ladies, That they are flatterers of princes, and enemies to men of Religion.

[Pro.] *Strong Antagoniſts againſt the Teachers of the Truth.*

[D. *Fer.*] So true of the *Jeſuits*, that one would think they had made it their buſineſs to contradict the Fathers.

[Pro.] *Having four Principle vices rooted in their hearts by the Devil, Flattery to gain Gifts from the World, Detraction to render themſelves Recommendable by defaming others, Preaching Inceſſantly to Secular Princes to gain Applauſe, Robbing true Paſtors of their Right to Adminiſter the Sacraments.*

[*D. Fer.*] As for the firſt, *viz.* Flattery, There's not a Race of men in the World that Flatter and ſanctifie their Proſelites, as theſe men do; they will tell you, *That to be of their Congregation, and to be a Saint, are Terms in their Dialect Equivolent.* As for Detraction, It appears they never Boggle at any ſlanders, ſo they do but tend to the promotion of their Honour and Intereſt; and as to their unbounded exalting of themſelves above all other Orders, we may ſee a Spicemen of it inſerted in their Publick Act, which ſays thus, *We are to give* Molina *thanks for inventing that which Saint* Auſtin *could never have thought of.*

Thirdly,

Thirdly, Their eager Intruſion into the preſence o Kings and Princes, is viſible at this day in all the Courts in *Chriſtendom.* Laſtly, That Robbing true Paſtors of their Rights, &c. has been their general Cuſtom, is apparent by their Deportment in *Japan*, where they Diſpoſſeſt all other Orders of ther ſeveral Benefices: But more apparent this truth appears, by the Papers ſent to the *Pope* by the Biſhop of *Philippi*, and the *Feſuits* actions in *England* and elſewhere.

[Pro.] *Familiar with Ladies, teaching them to Cheat their Husbands.*

[*D. Fer.*] The Propheſie is ſo clear in this particular, that who knows the *Feſuits* needs no Expoſitor.

[Pro.] *Saying, Give your Goods to us, and we will Pray for you, and obtain Pardon for all your Sins.*

[*D. Fer.*] To Perſons thus Liberal, they ſay the *Society* is charged with their Sins, and will repent for them; ſo that the Sinners need not take farther care, but be confident they ſhall be ſanctified though they do nothing in order to it.

[Pro.] *Living Deliciouſly.*

[*D. Fer.*] The whole World can *witneſs* they were finer Linnen; ſay fewer Matten make leſs Faſts and greater Feaſts, and drink richer Wine than any Order whatſoever.

[*Pro.*] *Having the World at will.*

More might be ſaid of this than my brevity will allow, but let it ſuffice, That they diſpoſe all things to bring Griſt to their Mill, and in all Affairs propoſe no other end but their particular Intereſt and advantage.

[Pro.] *Hired Confeſſors.*

[*D. Fer.*] Mind well this Epithet, and you ſhall perceive

ceive what profit they have made, and do make daily by *Confessions*: Have you ever known any Confess to them, that at his or her death did not leave them all, or at least a great part of their Estates? besides what he wheadled from them in their life time.

[Pro.] *Peaceable Prosecutors.*

[*D. Fer.*] It is their Maxim never to forgive, but only by a sweetning and friendly Carriage, and to dissemble their secret Hatred till they have gain'd a fairer opportunity to Execute the secret Revenge.

[Pro.] *Sellers of Indulgences.*

[*D. Fer.*] The Propheſie speaks not of the *Popes* Indulgences which these people have nothing to do with, but it is to be understood of their easie granting great Liberty to Sinners by their loose opinions, whereof their Books abound, which never fail to sell well, as being a Magazin of Conveniences for wicked and profuse livers.

[Pro.] *Ambitious of Honour.*

[*D. Fer.*] We might stuff a Volum with this Article, for they pretend to a Supremacy in Knowledge, Vertue, Sanctity, and all other good Qualifications both Divine and Moral.

Ribadeneira the *Jesuit* in his last Book, saith, That though they have neither Quires, Fasts, Discipline, nor Pennance, &c. yet they deserve greater esteem than all Orders whatsoever; whereupon he gives the Reason why their Society assist not at Procession *because*, says he, *They ought to have a Rank more Honourable then any other Order, and therefore out of Humility* (*he might have said Pride*) *absent themselves.*

[Pro.] *Sowers of Discord.*

[*D Fer.*] There's not a City or Kingdom (says the

the Learned Expositor) where they have not indeavoured to raise dangerous Broils and Commotions; and have been so fatally successful in this wicked design, that they have already caused great Distractions in the Church at *Venice*, *Paris*, and other places; and the worst of it is, that wherever they have sown their Divisions, they have done it so unhappily, that they are likely to continue to the end of the World.

[Pro.] *Building still higher and higher, but not able to to attaque a height equal to your desires.*

[*D. Fer.*] See Exposition.

[Pro.] *But now you are fallen as* Simon Magus, *whose Bones were Bruised, and his Body struck before God, &c. So shall your Order be destroyed by reason of your Impostures and Iniquities: Go then you Teachers of Sin, the Doctors of disorder, Fathers of Corruption, Children of Wickedness; we will no longer follow you for Guides, nor give ear to your Erronious Doctrine.*

[*D. Fer.*] Here endeth the words of the Propheſie of St. *Hildegard*, which as it can relate to none but the *Jesuits*, so it likewise presageth the downfal of that Order.

This is the Commentory or Exposition of that Pious Bishop, and there is none but will acknowledge that if we would but inquire farther into the Interessed and Irregular Manners and Conduct of the Jesuits, *we should find them agree exactly with this Character of them, in both this Propheſie and exposition on the same.*

FINIS.